

In the claims:

1           1. (Currently amended) A cleaning apparatus comprising:  
2           a paddle;  
3           a receiver carried on the paddle;  
4           a cleaning element removably affixed to the paddle; and  
5           a handle having a tubular first end portion pivotally mountable in the  
6 receiver, the handle having a second user engagable end;  
7           the receiver receiving the first end portion of the handle in a releasable  
8           snap connection; and  
9           means, integrally carried on the first end portion for preventing lateral  
10          disengagement of the handle from the receiver.

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1           2. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1 wherein:  
2           element has an elastic end defining an expandable and retractable  
3 opening;  
4           a plate fixed to the paddle; and  
5           the elastic end of the cleaning element mountable over the plate.

1           3. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 2 wherein the  
2 plate traps the elastic end of the cleaning element between the plate and the paddle.

1           4. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 2 wherein:  
2           the plate is welded to the paddle.

1           5. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 4 further  
2 comprising:  
3           at least one sacrificial projection formed on one of the plate and the  
4 paddle; and  
5           at least one recess formed in the other of the plate and the paddle and  
6 positioned to be fixedly joinable to the projection by welding.

1                 6. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 5 further  
2 comprising:  
3                          a plurality of complementary shaped and positioned projections and  
4 recesses.

1                 7. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 2 further  
2 comprising:  
3                          a fluid absorbent pad mounted between the cleaning element and plate.

1                 8. (Original) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1 wherein:  
2                          the cleaning element is formed of a rough textured material to form a  
3 scrubbing surface.

1                 9. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1 further  
2 comprising:  
3                          means for pivotally connecting the handle to the paddle for pivotal  
4 movement in the handle along at least one axis, the mounting means including:  
5                                  a ball element carried at one end of the handle;  
6                                  the receiver having an interior cavity opening at one end  
7 through the paddle;  
8                                  a plug lockingly mountable in the interior cavity in the  
9 receiver, the plug moveably trapping the ball in the internal cavity.

1                 10. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 9 wherein:  
2                          the plug is releasably lockable in the receiver.

1                 11. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 9 wherein:  
2                          the receiver includes diametrically opposed slots allowing pivotal  
3 movement of the handle along one axis relative to the receiver.

12. (Canceled)

1           13. (Currently Amended) The cleaning apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 1  
2 wherein the receiver includes:

3                 a first bore portion rotatably receiving the first end of the handle; and  
4                 a clip end defined by two spaced walls extending from a base portion,  
5                 the two spaced walls spaced a smaller distance apart than a diameter of the first end  
6                 of the handle.

1           14. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1 further  
2 comprising:

3                 the handle having a bore at a first end;  
4                 the receiver formed of two arms projecting from the paddle, each arm  
5                 having an aperture extending therethrough;  
6                 a handle connector including a tubular member having a U-shaped end  
7                 defined by an end wall and two legs projecting from the end wall;  
8                 ends of the legs extending laterally from each leg and pivotally  
9                 mountable in the apertures in the arms; and  
10                 the two legs nominally spaced a greater distance apart than the  
11                 diameter of the bore in the first end of the housing for compression mounting of the  
12                 tubular member in the bore in the handle.

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1           15. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1 wherein the  
2 receiver comprises:

3                 a base fixed to the paddle;  
4                 a moveable portion hingedly connected to the base and moveable  
5                 between first closed position overlaying base and a second open position spaced from  
6                 the base;  
7                 complementary recesses formed in the base and the moveable portion,  
8                 the recesses defining a bore when the moveable member is in the second closed  
9                 position for pivotally receiving a first end of the handle; and  
10                 means for catching the moveable portion in the second closed position  
11                 to the base.

1           16. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 15 wherein the  
2 latching means comprises:

3                 a magnet formed in one of the base and the moveable portion; and  
4                 a metallic member in the other of the base and the moveable portion.

1           17. (Withdrawn) The cleaning apparatus of claim 15 further  
2 comprising:

3                 a projection on the moveable member facilitating movement of the  
4 moveable member between the first and second position.

1           18. (Currently amended) A cleaning system adapted for cleaning  
2 and drying surfaces, the system comprising:

3                 a plurality of interchangeably useable paddles, at least certain of the  
4 paddles having a different shape;

5                 at least one handle;

6                 a receiver mounted on one surface of each paddle, the receiver adapted  
7 for pivotally receiving a first end of the handle; and

8                 a plurality of cleaning elements, each removably attachable one at a  
9 time to one of the paddles, at least one of the cleaning elements having elastic means  
10 forming side edges of the cleaning element into a closed opening, nominally smaller  
11 than the outer peripheral surface dimensions of each of the paddles; and

12                 whereby:

13                 at least one of the handles handle, one of the plurality of  
14 paddles, and one of the cleaning elements being releasably engagable to form a  
15 cleaning apparatus for cleaning a surface.

1           19. (New) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1 wherein the lateral  
2 disengagement preventing means comprises:

3                 the first end portion of the handle defining a loop.